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John M. Peck to Pascal Enos

Rock Springs, Illinois, March 20, 1832.

To Mr. Enos,

Dear Sir:

The rev. Mr. Loomis¹ teacher at Kaskaskia is desirous to locate himself in some flourishing town permanently where he can teach either a select school or a public Academy. Besides other places I have mentioned Springfield as an eligible place & promised him to visit it and examine the situation, prospects, &c & confer with the people. Sickness in my family makes it impossible for me to visit your place as I projected and promised him. I have written Dr. Todd² & Mr. ³Frances the printer on the subject & I also request you, (if you take an interest in the object) to consult with other gentlemen and write to Mr. Loomis, soon as it can well be done.

1. Is there an opening for a select english & classical school. Mr. Loomis is unquestionably one of the ablest teachers in the western country, & could not fail soon as known to attract students.

2. Can a school house or comfortable room be had by May? Would the people build an Academy?

3. Can a comfortable dwelling be had for his family?

4. Can boarders be accommodated in private families at a reasonable rate?

An answer sent to Mr. Loomis, Kaskaskia, would be a favor both to him & me.

I intend before many weeks to visit your place & see what advances have been made since my last visit.

After my respects to Mrs. Enos and family, I remain respectfully yours &c.

J. M. PECK.

¹ Rev. Hubbel Loomis, Clergyman and Educator. Born in Colchester, Conn., May 31, 1775. Died at Upper Alton, Dec. 16, 1872. Settled in Upper Alton 1831, where he

resided until his death. 1832 opened Alton Seminary; it became the foundation for Shurtleff College. Rev. Loomis was one of the founders of Shurtleff College and for many years a member of the faculty, and that institution is partly a memorial of his life.

2 Dr. John Todd. Born April 27, 1787, near Lexington, Fayette Co., Ky., Died Jan. 9, 1865. Moved to Edwardsville, Ill. in 1817. In 1827 appointed by President John Quincy Adams Register of the United States Land Office at Springfield and at once moved there. He remained in office until 1829, when for political reasons he was removed by President Jackson.

3 Simeon Francis, Pioneer Journalist. Born at Wethersfield, Conn., May 14, 1796. Died at Portland, Oregon, Oct. 25, 1872. Editor of the Sangamo Journal. 1831-1855. now The Illinois State Journal.